



## The Secret Service is investigating how a gunman who shot and injured Trump was able to get so close



Police snipers return fire after shots were fired while Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump was speaking at a campaign event in Butler, Pa., on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Associated Press



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# This year's RNC speakers include VP hopefuls, GOP lawmakers and UFC's CEO — but not Melania Trump

By JILL COLVIN and BRIAN SLODYSKO

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former first lady Melania Trump will attend the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee next week, making a rare political appearance. But unlike in years past, she is not expected to address the gathering where her husband, former President Donald Trump, will formally accept the Republican nomination. While in the White House, Melania Trump sought to maintain her privacy and was often a reluctant presence on the campaign trail. This election season, she's largely avoided appearing on the campaign

altogether.

Convention organizers released a full list of speakers Saturday that did not include the former first lady. A person familiar with the schedule confirmed that she would attend but not speak at the event. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

The list has the three top contenders for the vice presidential nomination — Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, Ohio Sen. JD Vance and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum — as well as a mix of Trump allies from inside and outside government. Melania Trump has spoken at the last two Republican conventions. Spouses



of presumptive nominees generally give speeches

that describe their partners' backgrounds and personal qualities.

During a 2020 convention upended by the coronavirus, Melania Trump said that her husband "would not rest" until he "has done all he can to take care of everyone impacted by this terrible pandemic." Four years before that, she told the audience in Cleveland about her upbringing in Slovenia and attested to her husband's toughness and loyalty.

Her speechwriter in 2016 offered to resign after it was discovered some lines in her address were nearly identical to passages from a 2008 speech by Michelle Obama.

Those who are slated to speak this year include Trump's two oldest sons, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump, as well as former Fox News host Tucker Carlson. Lee Greenwood, the singer of Trump's walk-on song, "God Bless the USA," is also on the program, as is the model and rapper Amber Rose and Ultimate Fighting Championship CEO Dana White.

Other notable names include evangelist Franklin Graham, Teamsters President Sean O'Brien and the mayor of East Palestine, Ohio, who was highly critical of President Joe Biden's response to a 2023 train derailment that spewed a cloud of hazardous chemi-

**Then First lady Melania Trump speaks to a small group of supporters as President Donald Trump looks on at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Jan. 20, 2021.**

Associated Press

cals into the air.

Some senior Trump campaign officials credit the former president's trip to the town in the aftermath of the derailment as one of the most significant moments of his campaign and key to his transformation from exiled former leader to GOP front-runner.

Also appearing on stage will be Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, one of Trump's fiercest primary rivals. But while DeSantis will appear, Nikki Haley was not invited. Trump remains angry with Haley over her refusal to drop out of the race until March.

The schedule includes former White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who is currently in jail on contempt of Congress charges, the AP first reported Friday. Navarro is set to be released from a Miami prison on Wednesday, July 17, according to the Federal Bureau of Prisons' online database of current inmates. That would give him just enough time to board a plane and make it to Milwaukee before the convention wraps Thursday.

Navarro was found guilty in September of contempt of Congress charges for refusing to cooperate with a congressional investigation into the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The program will also feature former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who at one point considered running against Trump but ultimately decided against it.

The campaign previously announced a list of "regular people" who will be featured, including a group of students and fraternity brothers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, parents having trouble making ends meet, and his former golf caddie. □

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# Biden appeals for 'unity' after attempted Trump assassination, orders security review

By WILL WEISSERT and ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden on Sunday appealed for the country to “unite as one nation” after the attempted assassination of his predecessor, Donald Trump, and said he was ordering an independent security review of how such an attack could have happened.

Biden delivered short afternoon remarks from the White House after receiving a briefing on the investigation in the Situation Room. He called for a “thorough and swift” review and asked the public not to “make assumptions” about the shooter’s motives or affiliations.

The president said he has also directed the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee. Hours later, Audrey Gibson-Cicchino, the Secret Service’s coordinator for the convention, said the weekend attack against Trump did not prompt any changes to the agency’s security plan for the event and that officials “are fully prepared.”

In his remarks, Biden said that “an assassination attempt is contrary to everything we stand for as a nation.”

“It’s not who we are as a nation. It’s not American. And we cannot allow this to happen,” he said. “Unity is the most elusive goal of all, but nothing is more important than that right now.” Biden planned to deliver extended remarks to the nation Sunday evening in an address from the Oval Office. His campaign said the president would touch



President Joe Biden arrives on Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Associated Press

on “the need for every American to come together to not just condemn, but put to an end to political violence in this country.”

In the meantime, the president said he and first lady Jill Biden were praying for the family of Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief who was shot and killed during the Trump rally Saturday night in Butler, Pennsylvania.

“He was protecting his family from the bullets,” Biden said. “God love him.”

The president also said he’d had a “short but good conversation” with Trump in the hours after the shootings and that he was “sincerely grateful” that the former president is “doing well and recovering.”

Trump, who has called for national resilience since the shooting, posted on his social media account after Biden’s remarks, “UNITE AMERICA!”

Actually achieving unity will be far more challenging, especially in the midst

of a bitter presidential campaign. Biden’s team is grappling with how to calibrate the path forward after the weekend attack on the very person he is trying to defeat in November’s election.

Biden, who has set out to brand Trump as a dire threat to democracy and the nation’s very founding principles, put a temporary pause on such political messaging. Shortly after Saturday night’s attack, Biden’s reelection campaign froze “all outbound communications” and was working to pull down its television ads.

The president also postponed a planned trip to Texas on Monday, where he was to speak on the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act at the Lyndon B. Johnson presidential library. An NBC News interview between Biden and anchor Lester Holt will now occur at the White House, instead of in Texas, as initially planned. Biden’s campaign said

that, after the NBC interview airs on Monday night, it and the Democratic National Committee “will continue drawing the contrast” with Trump over the course of the GOP convention — even though it remains unclear when ads would resume.

Biden also still plans to make a planned trip to Las Vegas, which will include a campaign event on Wednesday. Vice President Kamala Harris nonetheless postponed her planned campaign trip to Florida on Tuesday, where she had been set to meet with Republican women voters.

Trump, meanwhile, announced that he was moving up plans to go to Milwaukee and the Republican convention, where criticism of Biden and the Democrats is sure to be searing.

The weekend developments were only the latest upheaval in a campaign that has been extraordinarily topsy-turvy in recent

weeks.

Biden’s shaky debate performance on June 27 so spooked his own party that some top surrogates and donors turned on him, and nearly 20 Democratic members of Congress called on the president to leave the race outright. Facing mounting questions about whether he was fit for a second term, Biden and his top advisers have been scrambling to salvage his campaign by adding events around the country and more aggressively criticizing Trump.

Saturday’s attack upended — at least for now — that counteroffensive on the cusp of the Republican convention.

The campaign also hopes that Sunday’s Oval Office address lets Biden further drive home his point about unity while demonstrating leadership that could assuage nervous critics within his own party.

“We’ll debate and we’ll disagree, that’s not going to change,” Biden said in his afternoon remarks. “But we’ll not lose sight of who we are as Americans.”

Although investigators are still in the early stages of determining what occurred and why, some Biden critics are calling out the president for telling donors in a private call on Monday that “it’s time to put Trump in the bullseye.”

A person familiar with those remarks said the president was trying to make the point that Trump had gotten away with a light public schedule after last month’s debate while the president himself faced intense scrutiny. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to more freely discuss private conversations. □



# The Secret Service is investigating how a gunman who shot and injured Trump was able to get so close

By **REBECCA SANTANA, MICHAEL BIESECKER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. Secret Service is investigating how a gunman armed with an AR-style rifle was able to get close enough to shoot and injure former President Donald Trump at a rally Saturday in Pennsylvania, in a devastating failure of one of the agency's core duties.

The FBI on Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania.

The gunman, who officials said was killed by Secret Service personnel, fired multiple shots at the stage from an "elevated position outside of the rally venue," the agency said.

An Associated Press analysis of more than a dozen videos and photos taken at the Trump rally, as well as satellite imagery of the site, shows the shooter was able to get astonishingly close to the stage where the former president was speaking. A video posted to social media and geolocated by the AP shows Crooks' body lying motionless on the roof of a manufacturing plant just north of the Butler Farm Show grounds, where Trump's rally was held. A different image shows Crooks wearing a gray T-shirt with a black American flag on the right arm, with a bloody wound to his head.

The roof was fewer than 150 meters (164 yards) from where Trump was speaking, a distance from which a decent marksman could reasonably hit a human-sized target. For reference, 150 meters is a distance at which U.S. Army recruits must hit a human-sized silhouette to qualify with the M16 assault rifle in basic training. The AR-style rifle, like that of the gunman at the Trump rally, is the semi-automatic civilian version of the military M16.

President Joe Biden said Sunday he has directed an independent review of the security at the rally.

Biden said he also directed



**Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump is surrounded by U.S. Secret Service agents at a campaign rally, Saturday, July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pa.**

**Associated Press**

the U.S. Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee. Audrey Gibson-Cicchino, the Secret Service's coordinator for the convention, told reporters later the agency was satisfied with what she called its comprehensive planning for the Republican convention.

Biden urged Americans not to make assumptions about the motive of the shooter. He said investigators are working swiftly to investigate the attack. "Unity is the most elusive goal of all," he said, but "nothing is more important than that right now."

Calls for an investigation came from all sides.

Rep. Mark Green, a Tennessee Republican who chairs the House Committee on Homeland Security, sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Sunday raising questions about the shooting and demanding information about the former president's Secret Service protection.

"The seriousness of this security failure and chilling moment in our nation's history cannot be understated," Green wrote.

The Secret Service did not have a speaker at a news conference Saturday night where FBI and Pennsylvania State Police officials briefed reporters on the shooting investigation. FBI Special

Agent in Charge Kevin Rojek said it was "surprising" that the gunman was able to fire at the stage before he was killed.

Members of the Secret Service's counter-sniper team and counterassault team were at the rally, according to two law enforcement officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss details of the investigation.

The heavily armed counterassault team, whose Secret Service code name is "Hawkeye," is responsible for eliminating threats so that other agents can shield and take away the person they are protecting. The counter-sniper team, known by the code name "Hercules," uses long-range binoculars and is equipped with sniper rifles to deal with long-range threats.

Mayorkas said his department and the Secret Service are working with law enforcement to investigate the shooting. Maintaining the security of presidential candidates and their campaign events is one of the department's "most vital priorities," he said.

"We condemn this violence in the strongest possible terms and commend the Secret Service for their swift action today," Mayorkas said. "We are engaged with President Biden, former President Trump and their campaigns, and are taking every possible measure to

ensure their safety and security."

Green also noted reports that the Secret Service had rebuffed requests from the Trump campaign for additional security. A spokesman for the Secret Service, Anthony Guglielmi, said on X Sunday that those allegations were "absolutely false" and that they had added resources and technology as the campaign's travel increased.

Green said he would be talking with Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle on Sunday.

Former top Secret Service agents told The AP that Crooks should never have been allowed to gain access to the roof, and the agency will have to figure out how that happened. They said such a lapse could have been caused by officers neglecting their posts or a flaw in the event's security plan.

The agency is "going to have to go through the security plan and interview a number of people from the director on down" to figure out what went wrong, said Stephen Colo, who retired in 2003 as an assistant director after a 27-year career in the service.

Colo said presidential candidates and former presidents don't typically get the same level of protection as the sitting president. In fact, Colo said he was surprised that the agency had staffed the event with a counter-sniper team. Such a valuable resource — there are not many of those highly trained agents — is usually reserved for the president. Candidates don't usually get such teams.

Timothy McCarthy, a former agent who retired from the agency in 1994, said the Secret Service "better be doing a deep dive into what happened there and doing whatever it takes to figure it out" because the gunman should not have been able to occupy such a vantage point.

"How did that person get up on that building?" said

McCarthy, 75, who in 1981 took a bullet when President Ronald Reagan was shot outside the Washington Hilton Hotel. "How did that happen? I mean, that's the key to the entire thing. And what measures were put in place to prevent it?"

James Comer, a Kentucky Republican who is the House Oversight Committee chairman, said he contacted the Secret Service for a briefing and called on Cheatle to appear for a hearing. Comer said his committee will send a formal invitation soon.

"Political violence in all forms is un-American and unacceptable. There are many questions and Americans demand answers," Comer said in a statement. U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres, a New York Democrat, called for investigating "security failures" at the rally.

"The federal government must constantly learn from security failures in order to avoid repeating them, especially when those failures have implications for the nation," Torres said.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat, posted on X that he and his staff are in contact with security planning coordinators ahead of the Republican National Convention set to begin Monday in Milwaukee. "We cannot be a country that accepts political violence of any kind — that is not who we are as Americans," Evers said.

The FBI said it will lead the investigation into the shooting, working with the Secret Service and local and state law enforcement.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will bring every available resource to bear to this investigation."

"My heart is with the former President, those injured, and the family of the spectator killed in this horrific attack," Garland said in a statement. "We will not tolerate violence of any kind, and violence like this is an attack on our democracy." □



# Hamas says Gaza cease-fire talks haven't paused and claims military chief survived Israeli strike

By WAFAA SHURAFU and  
MELANIE LIDMAN  
Associated Press

**MUWASI, Gaza Strip (AP)** — Hamas said Sunday that Gaza cease-fire talks continue and the group's military commander was in good health, a day after the Israeli military targeted Mohammed Deif with a massive airstrike that local health officials said killed at least 90 people, including children.

Deif's condition remained unclear after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday night "there still isn't absolute certainty" he was killed. Army chief Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi told journalists Israel attacked a compound where Deif "was hiding" but added: "It's still too early to summarize the results of the attack, which Hamas is trying to hide."

Hamas representatives gave no evidence to back up their assertion about the health of a chief architect of the Oct. 7 attack that sparked the war. His killing would mark the highest profile assassination of any Hamas leader by Israel since the war began. Deif has long topped Israel's most-wanted list and has been in hiding for years.

The Israeli military said Rafa Salama, a Hamas commander it described as one of Deif's closest associates, was killed in Saturday's strike. Salama had commanded Hamas' Khan Younis brigade. Netanyahu said all of Hamas' leaders are "marked for death" and asserted that killing them would move Hamas closer to accepting a cease-fire deal.

Hamas rejected the idea that mediated cease-fire discussions had been suspended. Spokesperson Jihad Taha said "there is no doubt that the horrific massacres will impact any efforts in the negotiations" but added that "efforts and endeavors of the mediators remain ongoing."

Hamas political officials also insisted that communication channels remained functional between the



An Israeli soldier moves on the top of a tank near the Israeli-Gaza border, as seen from southern Israel, Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Associated Press

leadership inside and outside Gaza after the strike in the territory's south. Witnesses said it occurred in an area that Israel had designated as safe for hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians. Israel's military would not confirm that.

On Sunday, some survivors were angry that the attack targeting Deif occurred without warning in an area they had been told was safe.

"I heard the first hit, and my son came screaming, 'Daddy, daddy' and took cover with me," said Mahmoud Abu Yaseen, who clutched his children but then woke up in the hospital to find his son had died. The family had already been displaced five times since the war began. "Where do we go?" he asked.

A United Nations official described utter chaos at Nasser hospital where victims were taken, many treated on bloodstained floors with few supplies available.

"I witnessed some of the most horrific scenes I have seen in my nine months in Gaza," Scott Anderson said in a statement. "I saw toddlers who are double amputees, children paralyzed and unable to receive treatment and others separated from their parents." He said restrictions on humanitarian aid to Gaza hamper efforts to provide needed medical and other care.

On Sunday, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant praised the pilots who carried out the strike and said

Hamas is being eroded every day, with no ability to arm itself, organize or "care for the wounded."

At least 300 people were wounded in the strike, one

of the deadliest in the nine-month war sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7 assault on southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took more than 200 hostage.

More than 38,400 people in Gaza have been killed in Israeli ground offensives and bombardments since then, according to the territory's Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

On Sunday, an Israeli strike in Nuseirat in central Gaza killed at least 14 people at the gate of a school used as a shelter for displaced people, according to an Associated Press journalist who visited two hospitals. Children were among the

15 others wounded. Israel's military in a statement said it struck "terrorists" operating in the area of a school run by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees.

"They are targeting everything," said a displaced Palestinian, Um Fadi Al-Zeer.

Also on Sunday, police said a Palestinian resident of east Jerusalem carried out a car-ramming attack in central Israel that injured four Israelis, two of them seriously. Israeli border police at the scene shot dead the attacker after he hit people waiting at two bus stops along a busy road. Israel's military said four of its personnel were wounded, two of them severely. □



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# Iran's new president vows balance with all countries but warns U.S. his country won't be pressured

By **AMIR VAHDAT**  
Associated Press

**TEHRAN, Iran (AP)** — Iran's newly elected president said his government will create "balance in relations with all countries" in line with national interests and the prerequisites for peace but stressed to the United States that his country "will not respond to pressure."

Masoud Pezeshkian penned "My Message To The New World" in the country's state-owned Tehran Times late Friday, praising the latest presidential election that "demonstrated remarkable stability" and vowing to uphold "promises I made during my campaign."

Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old heart surgeon and long-time lawmaker, bested hard-liner former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili to clinch July 5's runoff election to replace President Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May.

He said in his message his administration would "prioritize strengthening relations with our neighbors" and urged Arab countries to use "all diplomatic leverages" to push for a lasting



**In this photo released by an official website of the office of the Iranian supreme leader, Iran's President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian, left, sits next to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a mourning ceremony commemorating the 7th-century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein, as a portrait of the late President Ebrahim Raisi is placed at center, in Tehran, Iran, Friday, July 12, 2024.**

Associated Press

cease-fire in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip that started Oct. 7.

Iran has long supported the militant group Hamas, and Pezeshkian on Wednesday expressed his all-out support of "the Plastesinan resistance" in a message to the group's chief Ismail Haniyeh.

Pezeshkian, in the letter Friday, hailed his country's relations with Russia and China which "consistently stood by us during challenging times." He said Moscow was "a valued strategic ally" and his government would expand

bilateral cooperation. He also expressed willingness to "support initiatives aimed at" achieving peace between Russia and Ukraine in the ongoing war that entered its third year.

The president also said he looked forward to furthering cooperation with Beijing and applauded it for brokering a deal to normalize relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia after seven years of diplomatic tensions.

Pezeshkian said he looks forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with European countries "based

on principles of mutual respect" despite a relationship that has known "its ups and downs."

In May 2018, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — a nuclear agreement that also included Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany. Since then, Western powers have accused the Islamic Republic of expanding its nuclear program and enriching uranium to an unprecedented 60% level, near-weapons-grade levels. The U.S. has issued severe, mainly economic, sanctions against Iran.

Pezeshkian accused the European countries of renegeing on commitments made, following the U.S. withdrawal, to ensure "effective banking transactions, effective protection of companies from U.S. sanctions, and the promotion of investments in Iran." However, he added there were still many opportunities for collaboration between Iran and Europe.

He then addressed the U.S., underscoring his country's refusal to "respond to pressure," adding that Iran "entered the JCPOA in 2015 in good faith and fully met

our obligations." Pezeshkian said the U.S. backing out has inflicted "hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to our economy" and caused "untold suffering, death and destruction on the Iranian people — particularly during the Covid pandemic" due to sanctions.

Pezeshkian said Western countries "not only missed a historic opportunity to reduce and manage tensions in the region and the world, but also seriously undermined the Non-Proliferation Treaty." He emphasized that "Iran's defense doctrine does not include nuclear weapons."

Iran has held indirect talks with President Joe Biden's administration, though there's been no clear movement toward constraining Tehran's nuclear program for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Pezeshkian also accused the U.S. administration in his open letter of escalating "hostilities" by assassinating General Qassem Soleimani, the architect of Iran's regional military activities, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in neighboring Iraq in 2020. □

# Sister of North Korean leader Kim hints at resuming flying trash balloons toward South Korea

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**  
Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed Sunday to respond to what she called a fresh South Korean civilian leafletting campaign, signaling North Korea would soon resume flying trash-carrying balloons across the border. Since late May, North Korea has floated numerous balloons carrying waste paper, scraps of cloth, cigarette butts and even manure toward South Korea on a series of late-night launch events, saying they were a tit-for-tat action against South Korean ac-

tivists scattering political leaflets via their own balloons. No hazardous materials have been found. South Korea responded by suspending a 2018 tension-reduction deal with North Korea and resumed live-fire drills at border areas.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong said that "dirty leaflets and things of (the South Korean) scum" were found again in border and other areas in North Korea on Sunday morning.

"Despite the repeated warnings of (North Korea), the (South Korean) scum are not stopping this crude and dirty play," she said.



**A balloon presumably sent by North Korea, is seen in a paddy field in Incheon, South Korea, on June 10, 2024.**

Associated Press

"We have fully introduced our countermeasure in such situation. The (South Korean) clans will be tired from suffering a bitter embarrassment and must be

ready for paying a very high price for their dirty play," Kim Yo Jong said. North Korea last sent rubbish-carrying balloons toward South Korea in late

July. It wasn't immediately known if, and from which activists' group in South Korea, balloons were sent to North Korea recently. For years, groups led by North Korean defectors have floated huge balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets, USB sticks containing K-pop songs and South Korean drama, and U.S. dollar bills toward North Korea.

Experts say North Korea views such balloons campaigns as a grave provocation that can threaten its leadership because it bans official access to foreign news for most of its 26 million people. □



## Project to Renovate Palm Beach Tower to Begin July 13

Minister Dangui Oduber announced that the renovation of the Palm Beach Tower, located right in front of the Riu Antillas Hotel, will begin on July 13. This project will last until July 25, 2024, with the renovation being carried out by local artist Paul Wong. Like other projects currently ongoing around our island, this is also a project that is part of the beautification and improvement of Aruba's offerings.

The tower was repaired back in 2018 through a collaboration with Riu Hotel, which contributed half of the necessary funds at that time. Unfortunately, the repairs made back then did not last long. Due to bad weather and natural actions, the tower is once again in poor condition and needs to be repaired. For this reason, the Min-

istry of Tourism, together with the Aruba Tourism Authority, sought the necessary funds to repair the tower and platform. This time, materials that will last a long time will be used.

Access to the Palm Beach Tower will be restricted during this short period. However, once completed, it will become another attraction for our locals and tourists. Surely another small but impactful beautiful project.

Tourism remains the driver of our economy, and therefore it is extremely important for us to keep investing in Aruba's offerings. Minister Oduber continues to ensure the repair and beautification of various areas on our island.



## Bright light spotted in Aruba's night sky over the weekend

Last Saturday evening, around 8 PM, many people observed a light crossing the sky over Aruba. Photos and videos of this phenomenon quickly went viral on social media. According to the Space and Nature Aruba Foundation, this might be the remnants of the recent Starlink launch on July 12.

The brilliant object was seen in the skies of Aruba and other islands like

Curacao, displaying white, yellow, and green colors. The Space and Nature Aruba Foundation suggested that this could be the remnants of the recent Starlink launch on July 12, which experienced a failure according to SpaceX.

"The satellites will burn up in the atmosphere," said the foundation. The malfunction left the rocket's payload of 20 Starlink V.2 mini satellites unable to reach their intend-

ed orbit. It is expected that the satellites will fall back to Earth. If this is the case, more remnants may enter the atmosphere in the coming days.

According to the company itself, there is no reason for panic. The Falcon 9 launched from California last Thursday evening, carrying 20 Starlink satellites. After a few minutes of flight, the upper stage motor failed. Last Friday, SpaceX attributed the incident to a liquid oxygen leak.

Additionally, SpaceX stated that the satellites would re-enter the atmosphere and burn up. More than 600 Starlink satellites are in orbit, currently providing internet service to clients in some of the most remote places in the world.

It might also have been an asteroid, as NASA issued a warning after detecting an asteroid named 2024 NB2, which passed close to Earth last Saturday, July 13. However,



astronomers detected this asteroid flying close to Earth in Tucson, Arizona, traveling at 47,921 kilometers per hour. Although it was very close to Earth, scientists believe it is not a threat to the planet, according to the website WION.

Photos can be found on the Space and Nature Aruba Foundation's Facebook page.



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and

where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said

materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.





# 2,000,000

## SUMMER

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## Aruba to me

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day

again.

For today we received a lovely message from Patricia Massey from Woodbridge, Connecticut, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is quiet walks in the morning before the island awakes."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!



## Celebrating Convenience: Same-Day Refrigerated Delivery, 7 Days a Week, and Beloved by Guests – The GroceriesToGo Aruba Experience

For over seven years, GroceriesToGo Aruba has been dedicated to transforming the visitor experience on this beautiful island, ensuring that guests spend more time enjoying Aruba's pristine beaches and less time worrying about groceries.

### A Legacy of Service and Convenience:

The roots of GroceriesToGo Aruba run deep in the island's history. The founder's grandfather, known affectionately as Chipi Chipi, was a beloved figure on the island. His store, La Moderna, remains a local staple, now managed by the founder's uncle. Inspired by a deep love for Aruba and its culture, the founder sought to offer a service that would further enhance the island experience for visitors.

A Service Born from Love for Aruba: Frequent visits to Aruba, cherished family traditions, and a desire to improve the guest experience laid the foundation for GroceriesToGo Aruba. The concept is simple yet transformative: providing a grocery shopping and delivery service that



caters to every need, anywhere on the island, every day of the week.

### Seamless Convenience for Every Guest:

GroceriesToGo Aruba prides itself on exceptional customer service and a commitment to guest satisfaction. The service allows guests to place pre-trip orders that arrive upon check-in, or mid-trip orders to keep everyone satisfied throughout their stay. Whether it's beverages and snacks or a full family grocery order, GroceriesToGo Aruba ensures that every request is met with precision and care.

### What GroceriesToGo Aruba Offers:

**Convenience:** GroceriesToGo Aruba provides the convenience of pre-ordering groceries before guests' trips for delivery upon arrival. Additionally, same-day delivery

is available for guests already on the island.

**Service:** GroceriesToGo Aruba is committed to exceptional customer service, guaranteeing satisfaction. Deliveries are made seven days a week, and any request is accommodated.

**Versatility:** From snacks and beverages to full family grocery orders, GroceriesToGo Aruba offers a versatile range of products. Furthermore, the service caters to beach picnics, romantic dinners, and special events.

**Quality Freshness:** GroceriesToGo Aruba ensures the freshness of its products by sourcing from Aruba's top grocers and delivering everything in refrigerated vehicles.

**Exciting New Features:** GroceriesToGo Aruba is now offering same-day delivery for orders placed by noon, ensuring that even last-minute needs are promptly met. All deliveries are made in refrigerated vehicles to guarantee the freshness and quality of your groceries.

### A Personal Touch:

The founder's personal commitment

to the guests is evident in every aspect of the service. "It's my absolute pleasure to ensure our guests have everything they need for an unforgettable stay in Aruba," says the founder. "We are always available to address guests' needs, and provide exceptional service at all times."

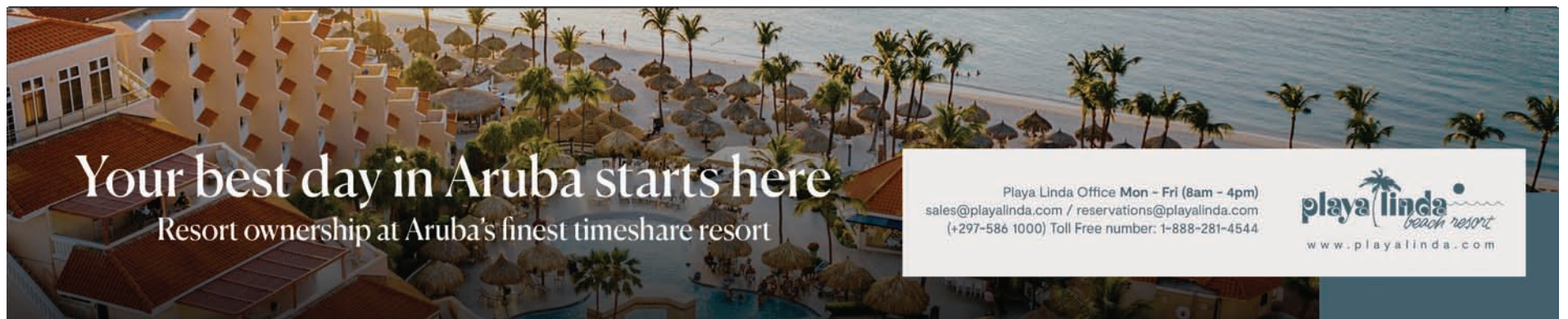
### Contact Information

Guests are encouraged to reach out for any questions or to receive discount coupon codes. GroceriesToGo Aruba can be contacted via email at [info@groceriestogoaruba.com](mailto:info@groceriestogoaruba.com) or through their website at [www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com](http://www.GroceriesToGoAruba.com).

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## Aruba's underwater wonderland

**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky



during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken word war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach

to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven.





## Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region.



**So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.**

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences.



Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family!

## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ —** The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.



### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaia*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flat-

tened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!





## A brief history of the California Light House

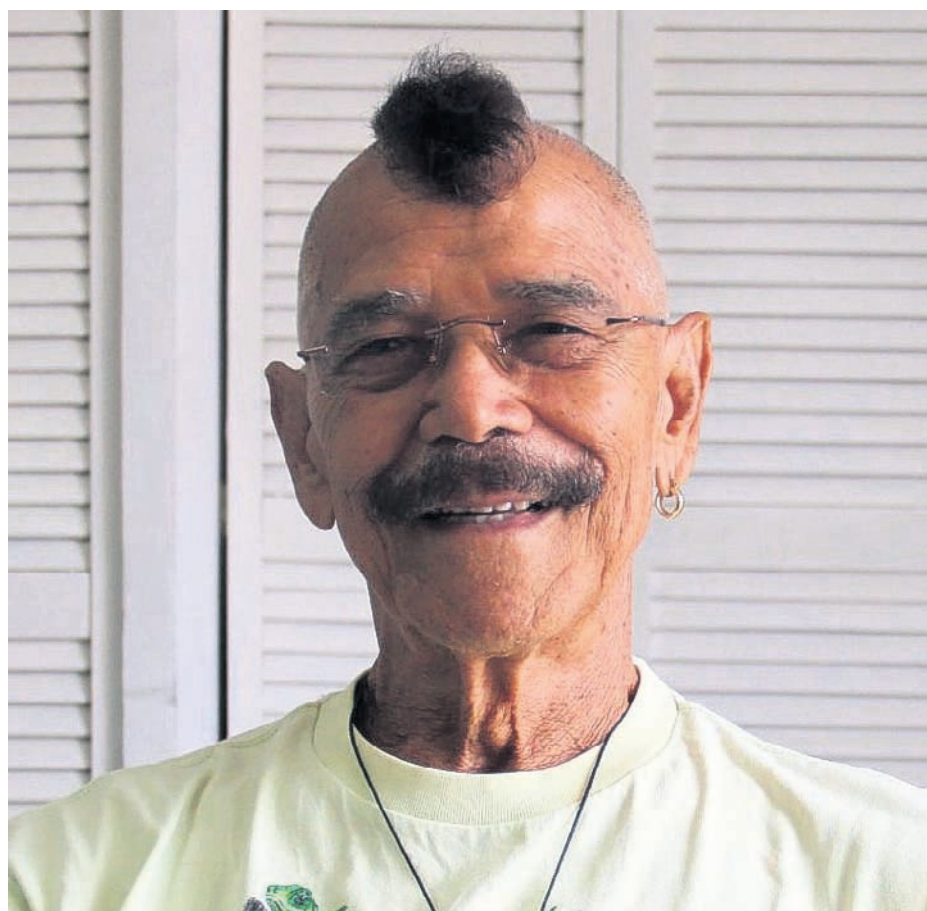
**(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.**

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to



come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 38 Painter's

1 Field yield motion

5 The 39 Turn to

Yokum liquid

boy 40 Passover

10 Timber meal

wolf 41 Peepers

11 Hay plant

13 Beame

and

Burrows

14 Hors

d'oeuvre

15 Wall art

17 Take to

court

18 Leave for

a bit

19 Sick

20 Count

start

21 Do some

modeling

22 Astounds

25 Prepared,

as a fish

26 Decline

27 Sinking

signal

28 Chicken

— king

29 Kid's racer

33 Kitten cry

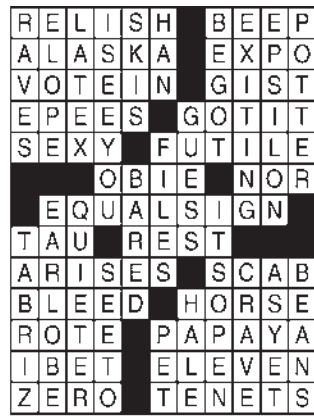
34 Mailing

cost

35 Lined up

37 Crocus

cousin



**Saturday's answer**

**DOWN**

1 Applauds

2 Metal

man

3 Heavier

than

heavy

4 Put off

5 Build up

6 Explosion

7 Persona

— grata

8 Vague

answer

9 Push

away

12 Stag-

gered

16 Ages and

ages

21 Race

start

22 Wise

teachers

23 Natural

gifts

24 Oblivious

25 Derisive

calls

27 Less

speedy

29 Bike

wheel part

30 Singer

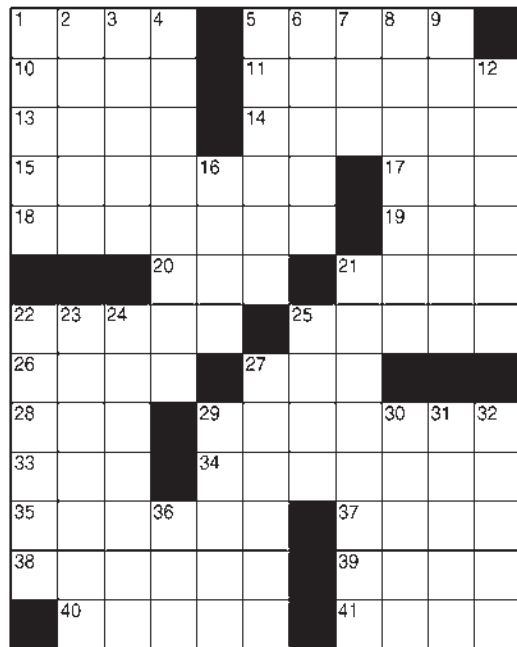
Mariah

31 Nimble

32 Work

breaks

36 Scepter



4-22

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-22

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

T A S N C M N S K C I I K L D

X I A Q D F J , O S K T A S N C M M A K

B D D V J V F Y M Z X F A P N A P Y M Z .

— V C O I A M D F S H C

**Saturday's Cryptoquote:** NATURE IS NOT A PLACE TO VISIT. IT IS HOME. — GARY SNYDER

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

**Supermarket hours**



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

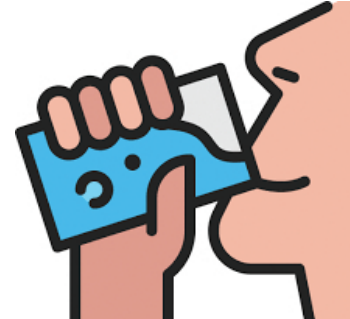
(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

**Electrical power**



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

**Drinking water**



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Safety**



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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# The first Titanic voyage in 14 years is happening in the wake of submersible tragedy. Hopes are high

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**  
Associated Press

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — The company that owns the salvage rights to the Titanic is undertaking its first expedition to the ship's wreckage in years, and those involved in the mission said they have both heavy hearts and lofty goals for a trip happening a year after a submersible disaster involving another firm killed five people.

RMS Titanic Inc., a Georgia-based firm, holds the legal rights to salvage the wreck of the ship, which sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in 1912. The company's first expedition to the site since 2010 launched Friday from Providence, Rhode Island. The voyage arrives as the worldwide community of undersea explorers is still reeling from the deadly implosion of an experimental submersible en route to the Titanic in June 2023. The Titan submersible disaster killed all five people on board, including Paul-Henri Nargeolet, who was director of underwater research for RMS Titanic.

This summer's mission to the Titanic "means even more with the passing" of Nargeolet, known as "Mr. Titanic"



The Titanic leaves Southampton, England, April 10, 1912, on her maiden voyage.

Associated Press

by many, RMST Inc. president Jessica Sanders said. The expedition will use modern imaging technology and remotely operated vehicles to capture detailed images of the Titanic, the wreckage site and the debris field, RMST Inc. representatives said. "This monumental undertaking will allow us to document the Titanic in unprecedented detail and share new discoveries from the wreck site with the public, continuing the extraordinary work and passion of PH," Sanders said. The ship headed to the site, the Dino Chouest, will take several days to reach the site and is slated to return around Aug. 13, said Jon Hammond, a spokesperson for RMST Inc. □

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2 Bed Garden view \$16,500  
3 Bed Ocean view \$32,000  
WK 51 Ocean view \$65,000  
WK 52 Ocean View \$65,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views

### GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$18,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$14,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$12,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$10,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000

### Marriott Aruba Ocean Club PLATINUM SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$45,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$29,000  
1 Bed Ocean front \$21,000  
1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

### GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$20,500  
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\*\* Destination Points \$5.00 per point

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### Casa del Mar

BEACH RESORT

### Casa del Mar Sales Inventory Week 28

#### WEEK 27

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#### WEEK 28

Ambassador unit (one bedroom)  
Price range: \$3,600.00 - \$4,500.00  
Presidential suites (two bedrooms)  
Price range: \$9,000.00 - \$18,000.00

#### WEEK 29

Ambassador unit (one bedroom)  
Price range: \$3,000.00 - \$4,500.00  
Presidential suites (two bedrooms)  
Price range: \$8,760.00

**FOR MORE INFO CALL:**  
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# Carlos Alcaraz wins Wimbledon by beating Novak Djokovic and now owns 4 Slam titles at age 21

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

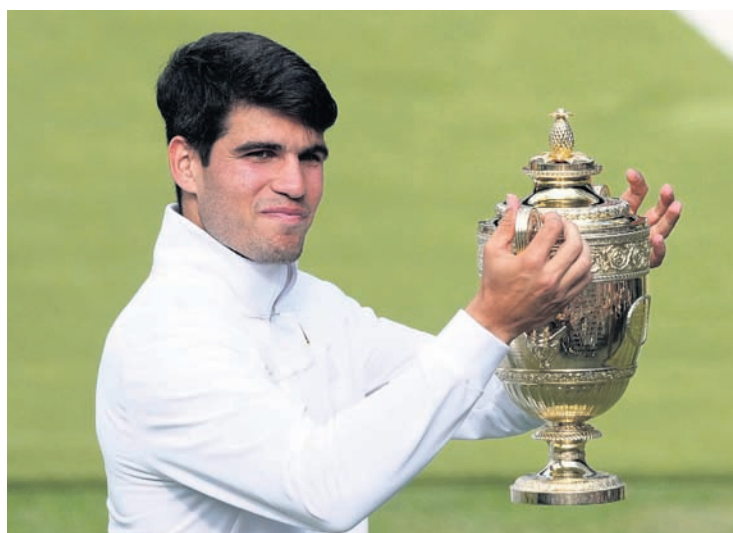
**AP Tennis Writer**

**LONDON (AP)** — Carlos Alcaraz was ready from the get-go this time. A year ago in the Wimbledon final against Novak Djokovic, Alcaraz got off to a slow start, dropped the opening set and needed five to claim his first championship at the All England Club.

Sunday's rematch began with a game that felt monumental: 20 points across nearly 15 minutes, portending an engrossing, back-and forth contest — and a long one. There were moments of brilliance from both men. Alcaraz, though, was better. Just as he would be for nearly all of the next two hours.

Alcaraz learned from 2023 and applied those lessons to 2024, adding up to a 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over Djokovic for a second consecutive Wimbledon championship and fourth Grand Slam title in all. And to think: He is still just 21.

"At the end of my career, I want to sit at the same table as the big guys," said Alcaraz, who won the French Open last month and, after receiving Wimbledon's gold trophy from Kate, the Princes of Wales, is now just



**Carlos Alcaraz of Spain smiles as he holds up his trophy for the photographers after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the men's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday, July 14, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

the sixth man to triumph on the red clay at Roland Garros and the grass at the All England Club in the same season. "That's my main goal. That's my dream right now."

Alcaraz improved to 4-0 in major finals, including at the 2022 U.S. Open; only Roger Federer got off to a better start to a career among men, going 7-0.

"He just was better than me in every aspect of the game," said the 37-year-old Djokovic, who had knee surgery less than 1 1/2 months ago yet was hop-

ing to tie Federer's men's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the first player in tennis history to win 25 Grand Slam tournaments. "In movement, in the way he was just striking the ball beautifully, serving great. Everything."

For Alcaraz, there was one brief blip, a five-point stretch that took him from the verge of victory to close to a collapse. It happened when he was a point from the championship while serving at 5-4, 40-love. But he double-faulted. Then missed a backhand. Then

a volley. Then a forehand. And another forehand. Suddenly, it was 5-all. Suddenly, Alcaraz appeared rattled. Suddenly, Djokovic could hope.

Suddenly, there was intrigue.

But only briefly. Alcaraz regrouped, got to the tie-breaker, then closed things out.

Last year, Djokovic recalled, "We went toe to toe."

"This year," he continued, "it was nothing like that. It was all about him. He was the dominant force on the court and deserved to win."

Wearing a gray sleeve on his knee, Djokovic was hardly at his best on a cloudy afternoon at Centre Court — and there's no doubt Alcaraz was a big part of the problem.

The very first game, it turned out, was the most competitive portion of the proceedings until the third set.

Not to say there weren't hints of excitement the rest of the way. It's more that the outcome never really seemed in dispute.

"The first game was incredible. One of the longest first games I've ever played," Djokovic said. "That set the

tone. He was coming out from the blocks ready to battle and ready to play his best level right away, which wasn't the case last year." Djokovic double-faulted to hand over a 5-1 lead in the first set. He put a volley into the net to fall behind by a break to begin the second, then double-faulted to end that one. Finally, in the third, Djokovic perked up a bit, registering his only break of serve all day, as spectators chanted his two-syllable nickname — "No-le! No-le!" — while others replied with choruses of "Let's go, Carlos! Let's go!"

Still, this was not the body-contorting, get-to-everything Djokovic everyone is accustomed to seeing, which makes sense considering there were serious questions about whether it would be possible to even participate at Wimbledon. Against Alcaraz, Djokovic occasionally hopped awkwardly when he landed after serving or stepped gingerly — as if barefoot on a beach's hot sand — between points. Missing volleys he usually makes, Djokovic won just 27 of 53 points when he went to the net. □

# Tadej Pogacar conquers scorching Pyrenean climb to win stage 15 of Tour de France

**PLATEAU DE BEILLE, France**

**(AP)** — Tadej Pogacar demonstrated his climbing dominance once again, winning the grueling 15th stage of the Tour de France on Bastille Day with a scorching ascent to the Plateau de Beille and keeping the yellow jersey. The marathon stage on France's national day was nearly 200 kilometers (124 miles) long and featured four big climbs before an even harder grind up to Plateau de Beille.

Pogacar attacked with 5 kilometers remaining during the final "hors catégorie" (beyond category) climb, solidifying his reputation as the master of the moun-

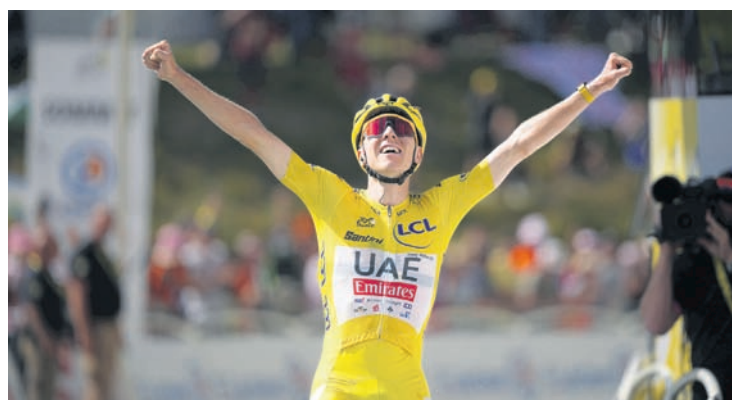
tains.

"I'm super happy with my shape right now," Pogacar said. "I usually struggle with the heat but today the team did a really good job with cooling me down. It was an incredible day."

It was Pogacar's third stage win in this year's Tour and his seventh career stage win in the Pyrenees mountains.

"Somehow I like them (the Pyrenees) and they like me back," Pogacar said. "Let's keep it that way."

The stage began Sunday with an immediate climb up the Col de Peyresourde, fracturing the peloton. A breakaway group of climbers, including Richard Car-



**Stage winner Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, celebrates as he crosses the finish line of the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 198 kilometers (123 miles) with start in Loudenvielle and finish on Plateau de Beille, France, Sunday, July 14, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

apaz, Laurens De Plus, and Enric Mas, set a fierce early pace but were reeled in as the decisive moments ap-

proached. Temperatures soared close to 35 degrees Celsius on the final climb. De-

fending champion Jonas Vingegaard, aided by his Visma teammate Matteo Jorgenson, tried to respond but couldn't match Pogacar's relentless pace, finishing more than a minute behind. Vingegaard is now 3 minutes, 9 seconds behind Pogacar overall.

Third-place Remco Evenepoel, another top contender, also struggled to keep up and is in third place overall, trailing Pogacar by 5:19.

"Tadej is on another planet this year," Evenepoel said after the race. "Right now he is the best in the world. There is absolutely no doubt about that." □



# Spain beats England 2-1 to win record fourth European Championship title

By STEVE DOUGLAS

AP Sports Writer

**BERLIN (AP)** — Spain is the king of European soccer for a record fourth time. For England, it's another agonizing near-miss in the team's decades-long tale of underachievement.

Completing a tournament the team dominated from start to finish, Spain beat England 2-1 in the European Championship final on Sunday with Mikel Oyarzabal the unlikely match-winner in the 86th minute.

Oyarzabal, a backup striker who came on as a substitute for captain Alvaro Morata, slid in to poke home a left-wing cross by Marc Cucurella, just when the game at Berlin's Olympiastadion seemed destined for extra time.

England, the birthplace of soccer, is still without a major title since winning the 1966 World Cup and its players watched on forlornly as Morata raised aloft the silver trophy inside Berlin's Olympiastadion, the venue built for the 1936 Olympics. Add 2024 to the titles won by Spain in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

"Here we are, champions of Europe," said Nico Williams, whose opening goal for Spain in the 47th minute was canceled out by England substitute Cole Palmer in the 73rd. "We are thrilled and hope this can keep going and we can go for the (2026) World Cup."

Spain won all seven games at this European Championship — an unprecedented feat — and there were joyous scenes after the final whistle, with defender Dani Carvajal piled on by jubilant teammates after slumping to the ground. Both Cucurella and Lamine Yamal — the 17-year-old prodigy who assisted Williams' goal — were among the first to jump over the advertising hoardings to reach the Spanish fans in the stadium's east end.

"This is the best (birthday) gift I could have asked for," said Yamal, who turned 17 on Saturday. "It is a dream come true."

It was fitting that Yamal



Spain's Alvaro Morata holds the trophy as he celebrates with his teammates after winning the final match between Spain and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, July 14, 2024.

Associated Press

and Williams combined for the crucial first goal as they are the poster boys of this exciting, multicultural team that mirrors Spain's chang-

ing demographics.

Yamal's mother is from Equatorial Guinea and his father is from Morocco, while fellow winger Williams

has Ghanaian parents who made the long journey to Europe looking for a better life. To make it to Spain, they had to ride on the back of a crowded truck and walk barefoot through the Sahara desert.

"Euphoria! We are so happy. We deserved this," said Williams, the player of the match. "This is for our fans and our parents, who have supported us throughout."

Unlike his brother Inaki, who is a Ghana international, Nico chose to play for Spain and will now be regarded as a national hero there.

Spain is back as a major player in senior soccer after winning both the Women's World Cup and the men's UEFA Nations League in

2023.

Since 2001, Spanish men's teams have won 23 consecutive major finals in club and international soccer.

"I said before the tournament, nobody can hang with us," Williams said. "We are a great team."

As for England, the men's team has now lost back-to-back Euro finals — it was defeated in a penalty shootout by Italy in the final in 2021 — and this was another agonizing loss for a team that will have gone six decades without a major title by the next World Cup. England's women have been more successful, though, winning the European Championship in 2021. □



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### Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy

Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

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Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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